

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Original claim 9 is amended to add a period at the end of the claim.

New claims 10-18 are based on the originally filed claims. Note that new independent claim 10 makes explicit that the method includes performing crystallization of the strontium titanate film, free of any wet oxidation, by dry heat treating the film at a particular temperature range between 500-650 degrees C.

There are no formal matters outstanding.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 stand rejected as anticipated by WEIMER et al. (US 2002/0151107).

Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected as obvious over WEIMER et al.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

WEIMER et al., in claim 1, disclose subjecting the dielectric film to **a wet oxidation** in a rapid thermal process chamber at a temperature of at least about 450 degrees C.

The application claim 1 and claim 5 recitations concerning **heat treating** at a temperature **between** 500 degrees C and 650 degrees C **in an inert gas ambient** do not read onto this disclosure. The recitation does not read onto wet oxidation and

is limited to the recited range, which recited range does not read onto at least 450 degrees C.

More specifically, see that WEIMER et al., in claims 2-3 teach ranges of wet oxidation as 450-750 degrees C (claim 2) and 750-950 degrees C (claim 3). These are also outside the recited range.

WEIMER et al., in claim 10, defines the stabilization (crystallization) process using N<sub>2</sub> being performed before and after the wet oxidation. In claim 11, the teaching is using N<sub>2</sub> at a higher temperature than the wet oxidation. The claim is silent as to a specific temperature range. However, see paragraph 0042, teaching a **temperature higher than about 750 degrees C**.

According to the pending claims, crystallization is performed in an inert gas ambient including argon, helium and nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) as a main component at a **temperature range between 500 - 650 degrees C**. WEIMER et al. do not make this teaching.

Indeed, WEIMER et al. do not teach or suggest that **stabilization is performed in the inert gas ambient**. Rather, WEIMER et al. teach to perform the wet oxidation as a necessary step between the two steps of stabilization.

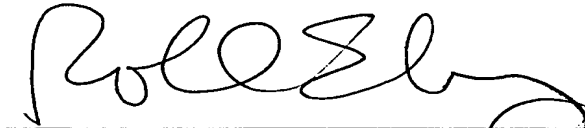
In view of the above, applicant believes that it is clear that the pending claims are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by WEIMER et al. Accordingly, reconsideration

and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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